



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Indian Rock Fuel Reduction

**PROJECT LOCATION** Portions T8S, R2W, Sec 7, MDBM

**COUNTY** Santa Cruz

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will utilize hand crews to create two conditions of modified fuels; a shaded fuel break in woodland formations and a residual mosaic in brush formations on up to 28 acres along portions of the road system in the community of Indian Rock. The project area will extend a maximum of 25 feet from the edge of the paved surface along both sides of the road system. Several areas of road corridors will not be treated due to steep slopes, cut banks or light fuels. The objectives will be to disrupt the horizontal continuity of surface fuels, vertical continuity resulting from ladder fuels, and increase shrub and understory crown spacing. Woodland formations will be treated with a "thin from below" approach reducing surface and ladder fuels and increasing understory crown spacing by removing a majority of tree species up to 6 inches DBH. The lower limbs of "leave" trees will be pruned to a height of 6 – 8 feet. Brush formations will be treated with a residual mosaic approach, leaving scattered shrubs and islands of intact formation comprising approximately 30% of the original cover, spaced 10 – 15 feet apart. Cut material will generally be chipped and spread uniformly on-site or hauled away. Invasive species treated having mature seed will not be chipped and spread on-site; instead it will be hauled off-site and disposed of properly or cut and laid within exiting areas of infestation, lopped to a height of 12 inches or less.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land  
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):  
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)  
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))  
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The work proposed is a minor alteration to vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is consistent with Categorical Exemption Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land. No activity is proposed that is listed as a limitation under CCR 15300.2 (a-f).


Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit Headquarters, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

  
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 6/11/13  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection